

# AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE (AMA)

## Conversion to Organic Farming -- Evaluation Criteria

Land User's Name \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Total Estimated Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Acres \_\_\_\_\_

Does applicant have an Organic System Plan? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If *No*, do not complete worksheet. Applicant is ineligible.

EVALUATION ITEM		CONCERN	MAXIMUM POINTS	POINTS AWARDED
I. Years toward certification		1 <sup>st</sup> year	20	
		2 <sup>nd</sup> year	15	
		3 <sup>rd</sup> year	10	
		Partially certified	5	
II. Acreage  If applicant has both produce and field crops, multiply produce acres by 3, add to field crop acres and use Field Crops & Pasture.	<u>Field Crops &amp; Pasture</u>	<u>Produce</u>		
	≤30 Acres	≤10 Acres	10	
	31-60 Acres	11-20 Acres	20	
	61-150 Acres	21-50 Acres	30	
	150-300 Acres	51-100 Acres	10	
	>300 Acres	>100 Acres	0	
III. Diversity		5 points/each	20	
<input type="checkbox"/> Produce	<input type="checkbox"/> Sheep/Goats			
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Crops	<input type="checkbox"/> Cattle			
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard/Trees	<input type="checkbox"/> Swine			
<input type="checkbox"/> Poultry	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____			
IV. Soil Building Practices		3 points/each	30	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cover & Green	<input type="checkbox"/> Nutrient Management			
<input type="checkbox"/> Manure Crop	<input type="checkbox"/> Residue Management			
<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Sod	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Synthetic Mulch			
<input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Pest Mgt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed Grazing			
Establishment of: <input type="checkbox"/> Composting				
<input type="checkbox"/> Forage Legumes	<input type="checkbox"/> Crop Rotation			
<input type="checkbox"/> Warm Season Grasses				
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>				

Prepared by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE (AMA)**  
**Conversion to Organic Farming**

The Organic System Plan must meet the requirements of 7 CFR §205.201. A copy must be provided to NRCS and maintained in the producer case file.

**I. Years Toward Certification**

Points are assigned based on the number of years an applicant has until achieving full organic certification

**II. Acreage**

This acreage figure is based on the area being used for organic product production. It does not necessarily include all the land on the tract.

**III. Diversity**

5 points are allowed for each organically produced product up to a maximum of 4 products. 20 points are the maximum allowed even if there are more than 4 organically produced products.

**IV. Soil Building Practices**

3 points are allowed for each of the listed practices. In order to receive the allowable points, the practices must be included in the contract support document and must be applied according to the Pennsylvania State Technical Guide.

<b><u>Soil Building Practice</u></b>	<b><u>PATG</u></b>	<b><u>Practice Name</u></b>
Cover & Green Manure Crop	340	Cover and Green Manure Crop
Permanent Sod	512 327	Pasture & Hayland Planting Conservation Cover
Integrated Pest Management - Allowed Materials Only	595	Pest Management
Establishment of Forage Legumes	512	Pasture & Hayland Planting
Establishment of Warm Season Grasses	512	Pasture & Hayland Planting
Nutrient Management	590	Nutrient Management
Residue Management	344 329	Residue Management (Seasonal) Residue Management (Mulch Till, Strip Till, & No Till)
Non-Synthetic Mulch	484	Mulching
Prescribed Grazing	528A	Prescribed Grazing
Composting	317	Composting
Crop Rotation	328	Conservation Crop Rotation